

WH-WHAT...

DID YOU JUST SAY?

.....

NEVER MIND
IF YOU DIDN'T
HEAR IT.

CRACKLE

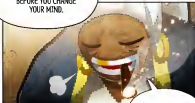


AH!
COULD IT BE YOU
WERE PLANNING ON
ASKING ME IF I NEEDED
ANYTHING OUT OF GRATITUDE
FOR SENDING THE
GUARDIANS AWAY?

GLINT

I'LL KILL YOU...

THEN I'LL BE QUICK,
BEFORE YOU CHANGE
YOUR MIND.



WELL, FINE.

PLEASE GIVE ME
THE LINE SHAPED
WOOD.





...WHAT_?

AFTER STOPPING
THE GUYS FROM GOING AFTER
THE WOOD_
YOU'RE THE SAME?

AH,
I WAS BEING TOO BRIEF,
WHAT I MEANT WAS...

PLEASE LEND
IT TO ME



IT'S SOMETHING
UNRELATED TO THE GUARDIANS,
OR A COPY OF TIGHTNESS.



I JUST FEEL I SHOULD
RESEARCH THE STRENGTH
OF A PERFECT MATERIAL,
NOT AS A GUARDIAN,
BUT AS A SCIENTIST.

THIS MIGHT
SOUND ARROGANT,
BUT...

FWIP
((

I JUST WANT
TO SEE IF THE PERFECT
MATERIAL IS STRONGER,
OR THE ONE I MADE IS
STRONGER.

THE EXPERIMENT WILL
TAKE PLACE IN THIS ROOM,
IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES,
AND THE WOOD WILL BE RETURNED
AS SOON AS IT'S FINISHED.



THERE WILL ALSO
BE NO MISUSE OR SPREAD
OF THE DATA FROM THE
EXPERIMENT.



WOULD YOU
LET ME BORROW THE
WOOD?

HISS...


THE REASON THE
LINE SHAPED WOOD
IS PERFECT...



ISN'T JUST
BECAUSE ITS SHAPE
IS EFFICIENT...

BUT IT'S ALSO
BECAUSE IT ACTS
AS THE SEED





IF YOU PLANT
THE LINE SHAPED WOOD,
AND GROW IT SUCCESSFULLY,
YOU GET MORE WOOD.

ONLY THE
WOODS THAT RECEIVE
THE MOST CORDIALITY
BECOME THE
LINE SHAPED
WOOD.

BUT IT'S
SOMETHING EVEN I
CAN'T REAP
AS MUCH AS I WANT.

THIS IS SOMETHING
ONLY MASTERS KNOW,
THE REASON I'M
TELLING YOU THIS
IS BECAUSE...



YOU NEED TO
NOT ONLY KNOW HOW
PRECIOUS LINE SHAPED
WOODS ARE
BUT...

YOU ALSO SHOULD KNOW
THAT IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG,
YOU'LL BE TO BLAME.



A close-up, high-contrast image of a character's face. The character has a blue visor covering their eyes. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows. The character's skin appears to be a light, possibly metallic or synthetic material.

I WON'T
DISAPPOINT
YOU.

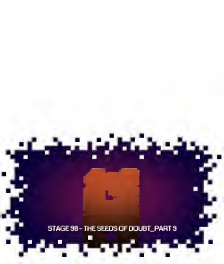
A close-up, high-contrast image of a character's face. The character has a red visor covering their eyes. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows. The character's skin appears to be a light, possibly metallic or synthetic material.

.....



I'LL
GIVE YOU JUST
ONE.





STAGE 98 - THE SEEDS OF DOUBT_PART 3




THANK YOU
FOR COMING
HERE.



I WILL NOW
BEGIN THE STRENGTH
TEST.

TA DA





THIS IS THE
SAMPLE OF PERFECT
MATERIAL I MADE,

SHING...

AND WITH THIS,
I WILL TEST IF I CAN CUT
THROUGH THE NATURAL
PERFECT MATERIAL.

I TRIED TO
MAKE IT AS CLOSE TO
PERFECT MATERIAL AS I COULD,
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT
THE RESULTS ARE.



U-UM.
WHY THE LINE SHAPED
WOOD?



"IT'S BECAUSE IT
IS CONSIDERED AS THE MOST
PERFECT WOOD."

IT IS THE
REASONABLE ARGUMENT.
BUT...

SINCE
WE'RE DOING THIS,
WE MIGHT AS WELL DO IT
WITH THE STRONGEST ONE,
RIGHT?



...HEH...





**ENOUGH
WITH THE TALKING!
HURRY UP!**

AH,

A close-up of a hand holding a knife, with a speech bubble containing the text "FORGIVE ME." The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

FORGIVE ME.

CLE NCH

A speech bubble containing the text "THEN WITHOUT FURTHER ADO..." The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

THEN
WITHOUT FURTHER
ADO...



CLANG





WOOSH

WOW...



THIS IS NOT EASY
AS I EXPECTED...





THE THING YOU
SPENT SO MUCH TIME
ON IS NOW_

SHALL I
TRY ANOTHER SAMPLE
THEN?

CLINK





WH-WHAT?!
YOU SHOULD BE
DONE NOW!!

AH,
IS THAT SO?

**BUT DIDN'T WE
AGREE ON ONE WOOD,
NOT ONE TRY?**

**HE'S
PLAYING ON
WORDS?**



ONE TRY
FROM NOW ON!
AND THAT'S IT!

AH,
SO THIS IS MY
LAST CHANCE.

I PREPARED MANY
SAMPLES...

CLINK...





...IT APPEARS I
HAVE TO MAKE A
DECISION TOO.



...HERE WE GO.

FWIP

A character wearing a blue jumpsuit and a white cowboy hat is shown from the chest up, swinging a sword. The sword is a long, straight blade with a simple hilt. The background is a warm, brownish-yellow color with some faint, sketchy lines suggesting a landscape or sky. The character's face is not visible, as the hat covers it.





WOOSH



OH, THIS.



APPEARS TO HAVE
SUCCEEDED...!







CLEAN
IT UP AND
GET LOST.



THUD



AH,
PLEASE STAY THERE,
HEXOMINO.

CLINK



I'LL CLEAN IT UP...





...UM...
I HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY...

THAT WOOD
IS ACTUALLY...

THIS...

WASN'T
ACTUALLY WOOD,
WAS IT?



